

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 ACDA-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 /032 W

----- 061008

R 190915Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5805

DA WASHDC//DALO-ILM//

INFO CDR DARCOM ALEX VA//DRSIL-WM/ME//

CDR ARMCOM ROCK ISLAND IL//DRSAR-ASI//

SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3442

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: GOK REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON M16A1 RIFLE

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM KUWAITI ARMY, NOTED PARA 3 BELOW, REGARDING M16A1 RIFLE. KUWAITI INTEREST IN THIS WEAPON APPARENTLY STEMS PARTLY FROM DEMONSTRATION CONDUCTED HERE IN APRIL 1976 BY US ARMY (ARMCOM) TEAM. KUWAIT ARMY CLEARLY STILL SHOPPING FOR NEW RIFLE; THOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR SALE. SUCH SALE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO KUWAIT AND, WE BELIEVE, THE FIRST TO SMALL PERSIAN GULF STATE.

2. FOR SECSTATE. HAS DECISION IN PRINCIPLE BEEN MADE TO SELL M16A1 TO KUWAIT IF REQUESTED? WE ASSUME SUCH DECISION WAS MADE PRIOR TO US ARMY DEMONSTRATION, BUT WE FOUND NO INDICATION OF THIS IN EMBASSY FILES. IF DECISION ON SALE IS AFFIRMATIVE, WE RECOMMEND RELEASE OF AVAILABILITY DATA REQUESTED PARA 3 BELOW, IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE SALES REQUEST. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT GOK, IF INTERESTED AT ALL, WOULD PLAN TO ARM ONLY ITS COMMANDO (LIGHT INFANTRY) BATTALION -ABOUT 600 RIFLES--BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW

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ACTUAL QUANTITY WHICH GOK MAY BE CONSIDERING.

3. FOR DA. GOK ARMY HAS REQUESTED FOLLOWING INFORMATION
ON M16A1 RIFLE NSS 1005-00-073-9421:

A. IF GOK SHOULD MAKE FORMAL REQUEST FOR M16A1
RIFLE COULD THIS WEAPON BE SUPPLIED WITH THE GRENADE
LAUNCHER AND ASSOCIATED AMMUNITION?

B. IS M16A1 AMMUNITION (5.56 MM) AVAILABLE FROM
OTHER THAN US SOURCES?
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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